

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 /022 R

DRAFTED BY USDA/APHIS/MPI/C:LBELFIELD:EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR;JS
APPROVED BY EB/OF/FPD:PDTAYLOR
MPI:FPS:HMSTEINMETZ
MPI/OA:VHBERRY
FAS:RANDERSON
ARA/ECA:DVANTRECK
ARA/ECP:WBURSON

-----131818Z 057844 /40

O P 131804Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AR

SUBJECT: MEAT INSPECTION

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2586

1. WE APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFTEL AND
DESIRE FURTHER INFORMATION ON ARGENTINE MEAT INSPECTION.
REQUEST EMBASSY CONTACT ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO ASCERTAIN WHAT STEPS HAVE
NOW BEEN TAKEN TO CORRECT PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED DURING MARCH.
MEASURES COULD INCLUDE:

A. MINISTRY COULD HIRE THE ALREADY TRAINED NON-GOA
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INSPECTORS.

B. GOA COULD TEMPORARILY CONSOLIDATE GOA INSPECTORS INTO
THOSE PLANTS ACTIVELY EXPORTING TO THE UNITED STATES AND
DELIST THE PLANTS THAT ARE NOT EXPORTING TO U.S.

C. GOA COULD TEMPORARILY REDUCE THE RATE OF SLAUGHTER TO

A LEVEL WHERE EXISTING GOA INSPECTORS COULD PERFORM INSPECTION. APHIS FEELS ABOVE SUGGESTIONS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY BY GOA.

2. CONTINUANCE OF INSPECTION BY NON-GOA INSPECTORS IS UNACCEPTABLE.

3. PLEASE REPORT RESULTS OF EMBASSY APPROACH TO GOA. WHEN WE HAVE FULL REPORT ON GOA ACTION ALREADY TAKEN APHIS AND OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL CONSIDER FURTHER STEPS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.

4. FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND: APHIS/USDA FOREIGN PROGRAMS OFFICERS DISCUSSED VARIANCES IN GOA'S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POLICY ON INSPECTOR STAFFING OF MEAT PLANTS THAT EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES IN DETAIL DURING MARCH VISIT WITH MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, CADENAS MADARIAGA AND DIRECTOR GENERAL, DR. FEDERICO E. GONZALES GREY. ARGENTINES WERE INFORMED THAT APHIS FOREIGN PROGRAMS OFFICERS' DUTY IS TO OBSERVE AND REPORT AND THAT THIS VARIANCE WOULD BE REPORTED TO APHIS FOREIGN PROGRAMS STAFF IN WASHINGTON, D.C. WHERE DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON ACTION TO BE TAKEN. GOA WAS INFORMED THAT THE PLANTS COULD BE REMOVED FROM THE U.S. EXPORT LIST.

5. THE FOREIGN PROGRAMS OFFICER ALSO INFORMED THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND DIRECTOR GENERAL THAT A SIMILAR INSPECTOR STAFFING PROBLEM HAD OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS AGO AND THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE WAS CORRECTED AT THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME, AFTER THE APHIS/FOREIGN PROGRAMS OFFICERS MET WITH GOA FORMER MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE AND FINANCE.

6. APHIS FOREIGN PROGRAMS STAFF HAS RECEIVED A COPY OF THE DECREE WHICH PROMISES THE HIRING OF ADDITIONAL GOA INSPECTORS, HOWEVER, THIS STILL DOES NOT SOLVE THE PROBLEM. CONCRETE STEPS ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED IN PARA. 1 ABOVE REMAIN NECESSARY.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MEATS, INSPECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE082727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LBELFIELD:EB/OFD/FPD:PDTAYLOR;JS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0558
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacaqg.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e150b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BUENOS AIRES 2586
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2818927
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEAT INSPECTION
TAGS: EAGR, AR, US
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e150b2a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009